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DECLASSIFIED ON: 9 JULY 2012

Bill
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C-9-a

QUILL

MEMORANDUM FOR Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

SUBJECT: QUILL Product Evaluation

As you know, Project QUILL is an orbital experiment of the use of high resolution radar for satellite reconnaissance purposes. The first feasibility mission was flown in December 1964, and the radar was operated successfully over the continental USA for several days.

A thorough engineering analysis of the results is underway by the Project Office/contractor teams. In addition, even though the product (in terms of range, resolution, swath width, obliquity, etc) is not necessarily representative of what one might expect from an operational system, it nevertheless appears desirable to conduct an evaluation of the intelligence worth of satellite radar imagery and its impact on the Community.

In that vein, it is requested that NPIC chair an ad hoc QUILL evaluation team. I will request the DIA to provide you the names and clearance status (QUILL is handled under the BYEMAN system) of up to six people to serve as members of the team. You may appoint such other members as you consider necessary to a well-rounded analysis.

As I see them, major objectives of the ad hoc evaluation team are generally as follows:

a. Determine the amenability of the QUILL High Resolution Radar products to interpretation by trained PI's to include problems associated with target detection, recognition and identification, training and interpretation aids.

b. Determine the techniques, limitations, advantages and special applications of this type of satellite derived intelligence product as a supplement to current photographic reconnaissance sensors and as a supplement satellite communications sensor.

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Byeman
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c. Recommend swath widths, resolutions, and beam depression angle for these applications.

You may wish to modify and/or add to these objectives. I therefore should like to review your evaluation plan shortly after the effort gets underway.

As soon as the team has been assembled, the chairman should contact Colonel Bunard of the NRO Staff, so that necessary arrangements can be completed for briefing the team on the QUILL system and the December mission, and providing the required material for evaluation.

The ad hoc team should schedule its activities so as to present a final report and briefing to me not later than 1 July 1965.

Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

cc: Deputy Director, CIA

1. NPIC
2. DepDir,CIA
3. SS-1
4. SS-6
5. RF-1
6. RF-2

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2

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